TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 to JUNE 30, 2023 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Williamstown, in the County of Berkshire.

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, in said Williamstown on

TUESDAY, THE TENTH OF MAY 2022 at SEVEN O'CLOCK A.M. for the following purpose:

To bring their votes to the election of officers for the election of all Town Officers

The polls will be opened at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and will close at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

And furthermore to meet at Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, on TUESDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2022 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

To act on all Articles of this warrant, except Article 1, which has been acted upon at the above meeting for the election of officers.

ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

Article 1. To choose two Select Board members, each for a three year term; four Library Trustee members, each for a three year term; one Planning Board member for a five year term; one Moderator for a three year term and one Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School Committee member for a three year term. *The election occurs on May 10, 2022 after this document has gone to press. Election results are posted on the town website www.williamstownma.gov.*

REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, the Town Manager, and all other officers and committees, and act thereon.

TO APPLY UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Town customarily applies excess receipts and unused appropriations of the previous fiscal year (Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash") to reduce the tax rate.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$675,388.50 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Purpose	Year Borrowed	Years Left	Total Outstanding 7/1/22	FY2023 Principal and Interest
Elementary School	2005	3	\$ 585,000	\$213,700.00
Police Station	2018	16	\$4,160,000	\$343,987.50
Cable Mills	2015	3	\$ 330,000	\$117,700.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$557,687.50 from taxation and \$117,700 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Each of the above items is a bond issue the Town has committed to repay over the number of years remaining as indicated.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,120,815 or any other sum, for the following capital expenditures, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ltem	Department	Amount
Hart Landfill - Engineering Services	Public Works	\$ 91,600
Front St - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Hlghway	\$ 69,800
John St - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$ 48,800

Manning St - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$ 51,400
Brook Rd Overlay	Highway	\$ 86,000
Pickup 4x4	Facilities	\$ 48,000
Pickup Double Cab	Parks	\$ 54,000
Commercial Mower	Parks	\$ 18,000
Energy Efficient Lighting	Library	\$ 27,215
Subtotal		\$ 494,815
Replace Tractor Camera	Sewer	\$ 85,000
Hoosac River Bank Stabilization/		
Sewer Line Relocation	Sewer	\$ 210,000
Simonds Rd Lift Station Rehab	Sewer	\$ 70,000
4x4 Utility Body & Crane (50%)	Sewer	\$ 58,000
Subtotal		\$ 423,000
Cleaning Wells 1A, 3	Water	\$ 105,000
Rattlesnake Reservoir Mechanical Rehab	Water	\$ 40,000
4x4 Utility Body & Crane (50%)	Water	\$ 58,000
Subtotal		\$ 203,000
Total Capital		\$ 1,120,815

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$494,815, that \$423,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$203,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Public Works, Highway, Facilities, Parks and Library items are funded by Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash" transfers. Sewer and Water Department items are funded by user fees.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,263,881.10 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Sewer Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,163,881.10 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$100,000 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The sewer rate will increase from the FY22 rate of \$2.55 to \$3.31 for FY23. This is a \$.76 increase. The HWQD rate will increase from the FY22 rate of \$3.40 to \$4.21 for FY23. This is a \$.81 increase. The Sewer Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses related to the operation of the department are paid by user fees rather than taxation.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$698,058.52 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Water Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$670,058.52 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$28,000 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The water rate will increase from the FY22 rate of 3.70 to \$3.85 for FY23. This is a \$.15 increase. The Water Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses of the Department are paid by user fees, not taxation.

WATER RATE

Article 8. To see if the Town will, in accordance with § 7, Chapter 606 of the Acts and Resolves of 1941, vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of April 11, 2022 to be effective July 1, 2022, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This is an increase of \$.15 from the previous year

WATER PUMP STATION UPGRADE

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,500,000.00 from the Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance for the redevelopment of Well #2 and the upgrade of the Pump Station and Chemical Feed Buildings and structural improvements including insulation, floor replacement, roofing, weatherproofing and process improvements including the replacement of well pump, motor, variable frequency drive and controls, chemical feeder systems, analyzers, controls and electrical service to buildings.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This project has been anticipated for several years with the Water Unreserved Fund Balance built up to the current level of \$3.2 million for this work.

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$252,837 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department, including costs of public trash removal or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$232,837 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Transfer Station is an Enterprise Fund.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the fiscal year for Capital Projects, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Chapter 90 funds are distributed by the State for approved highway projects. The Town is required to spend the money before being reimbursed by the state. Since the Town cannot spend money it does not have, this article authorizes the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of receiving the Chapter 90 reimbursement from the Commonwealth.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$46,500 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,400 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$900 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$200 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Last year's appropriation of \$50,000 continued the process to put the Town on a pay-as-you-go basis for Other Post-Employment Benefits, primarily health insurance for retirees. This funding is important to maintain our Aa1 bond rating.

APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED BALANCES RESERVE FUND

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to the Compensated Balances Reserve Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 13D, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This appropriation sets aside funds to meet our legal obligation to pay accrued employee benefits upon separation from the Town's employment.

APPROPRIATION TO STABILIZATION FUND

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum 0f \$50,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Stabilization Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This appropriation starts to replenish funds that have been used from the Stabilization Fund over the past few Fiscal Years.

REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMITS

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, under the provisions of MGL chapter 44, $53E^{1/2}$.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Expend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	Spending Limit
Inspection Services	Building Commissioner	Inspection Fees: Gas, Plumbing, Electrical	Salaries/ Expenses	\$75,000
Public Library	Library Trustees	Fees and Fines	Supplies, Services and Equipment	\$25,000

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$9,313,794.56 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

<u>Department</u>	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023
Executive	\$323,916.00	\$483,042.28
Administration and Finance	\$3,285,482.37	\$3,494,723.49
Community Development	\$424,274.64	\$446,494.42
Public Safety	\$1,526,464.64	\$1,625,746.29
Public Works	\$2,187,550.49	\$2,353,246.49
Human Services	\$922,969.93	\$910,541.59
Total _	\$8,670,658.07	\$9,313,794.56

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 - 0, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,089,790.56 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from

Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$9,704 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article with appropriations as shown above by a vote of 4 - 1.

The General Government appropriation is a 7.4% increase over the current year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 - 0, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

The Reserve Fund is established under G.L. c. 40 § 6 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures authorized by the Finance Committee.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$12,853,354.95 or any other sum, being Williamstown's share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY23 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

	FY2022	FY2023
Operating Assessment	\$11,315,860.08	\$11,817,421.95
Capital Assessment	\$ 1,031,134.00	\$ 1,035,933.00
Total Assessment	\$12,346,994.08	\$12,853,354.95

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,853,354.95 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Williamstown assessment is a combined budget of the Elementary School and Mount Greylock Regional School due to regionalization. The capital assessment

includes debt repayment for the high school renovation as approved in March 2016, and excluded from the levy limit. This bond was for a term of 30 years. The portion of operating assessment attributable to Williamstown Elementary School is \$5,924,127.86 and the portion attributable to Mount Greylock Regional School is \$5,893,294.09.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$322,418 or any other sum, being Williamstown's share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY23 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$322,418 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

FUNDING FOR CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$35,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to conduct a comprehensive compensation and classification study to ensure internal and external pay equity; and to provide consistency between departments with regard to comparable pay ranges.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$35,000 for the Classification and Compensation Study.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The recently completed Human Resources Audit strongly recommended that this study be done since the last time Williamstown conducted one was in 1998. The D.I.R.E. Committee endorses this recommendation since it will help reach the Town's goal for equity in the workplace.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6A to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town's resources, advantages, and attractions, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce is intended to promote tourism.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Youth Center appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

SAND SPRINGS RECREATIONAL CENTER

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$19,000 for the Sand Springs Recreational Center to provide recreation services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 - 0, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$19,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 - 2.

The Sand Springs appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Community Preschool to provide preschool services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application

submitted to the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to support Williamstown Community Preschool.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Community Preschool appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2023 or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING (CABLE MILLS)

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to borrow and appropriate or transfer from available funds under the Community Preservation Act for the purposes of creating and supporting affordable community housing the amount of \$400,000 to fund a grant to 250 Water LLC to be used for the construction of no less than twenty-seven (27) units of deed restricted affordable housing in perpetuity, consisting of no fewer than eight of which at 30% and nineteen of which at 60% of Area Median Income, all at land known as Cable Mills located at 160 Water Street and shown as Assessors Parcel 121-91, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with 250 Water LLC outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, Section 31, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 6 - 1 - 0

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, in accordance with the application to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION (STORE AT FIVE CORNERS STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.)

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association, Inc., for historic preservation purposes with respect to the existing Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Williamstown, MA, in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 3 - 0.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 5 - 3 - 1 the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends against the adoption of this article by a vote of 0 - 2 - 3.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION (WILLIAMSTOWN MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION FUND, INC.)

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc., to renovate and preserve in the future the structure known as the Meetinghouse, currently owned by First Congregational Church of Williamstown, in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 6 - 1 - 2 the adoption of this article.

The Select Board gives no recommendation on this article by a vote of 2 - 2 - 1.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT-TOWN MANAGER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PRIOR OFFICE RESTRICTION

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to petition the General Court for special legislation to (a) remove the requirement that the Town Manager must be a resident of the Town and/or (b) remove the prohibition preventing any current town official from being appointed the Town Manager; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any other action in relation thereto.

The petition for special legislation shall take substantially the following form:

An Act Amending the Town of Williamstown Home Rule Charter

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 11 of the charter of the town of Williamstown, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking the third sentence of said section which reads, "He need not be a resident of the town or of the commonwealth when appointed, and shall not, during the 12 months prior to his appointment, have

held any elective or appointive office in the Town of Williamstown, other than the office of Assistant Town Manager, if any." .

SECTION 2. Section 11 of said charter is hereby amended by striking the fourth sentence of said section which reads, "The Town Manager shall be a resident of the town during the term of his office." and inserting in place thereof, "The Town Manager need not be a resident of the town during the term of his/her office.".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT-GENDER-NEUTRAL WORDING

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to petition the General court for special legislation establishing a gender-neutral Town Charter by replacing the terms: 1) "Board of Selectmen" with "Select Board"; 2) "Selectman" with "Select Board Member"; 3) "Selectmen" with "Select Board Members"; and 4) "Chairman" with Chair", in each and every instance in which said terms appear; and to replace all gendered terms with gender-neutral terms, without changing the meaning of said terms; or to take any action related thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

GENERAL AND ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT-GENDER-NEUTRAL WORDING

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to amend the General and Zoning Bylaws of the Town to replace the terms: 1) "Board of Selectmen" with "Select Board"; 2) "Selectman" with "Select Board Member"; 3) "Selectmen" with "Select Board Members"; and 4) "Chairman" with "Chair", in each and every instance in which such terms appear; and to replace all gendered terms with gender-neutral terms, without changing the meaning of said terms; and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive, ministerial revisions to ensure that grammar, gender, and numerical issues in related text are revised to properly reflect such change in title; or to take any action related thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR TWO ADDITIONAL SECTION 15 WINE AND MALT LICENSES

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow for two additional alcoholic beverages licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk off the premises or take any other action related thereto.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 2 - 1 - 2.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR ADDITIONAL SECTION 15 ALL ALCOHOLIC LICENSE

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow for an additional alcoholic beverages license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises or take any other action related thereto.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-1 OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-1 of the Bylaws of the Town of Williamstown by adding the bold, italics language below or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-1 Purpose.

The purpose of the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Williamstown for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households and for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws chapter 44B. Without limiting the foregoing, such purposes shall include the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing.

The purpose of the proposed revisions to Section 6-1 are to make clear that the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund has the full range of powers and authorities available to it under its enabling statute, M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C; and to make clear it likewise is authorized to accept Community Preservation Act funds for the full array of statutory purposes available under the Community preservation Act, M.G.L. c44B, Section 5(b)(2).

The proposed revision to Section 6-1 of the Town Code adds a phrase from M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C to the end of the first sentence of §6-1; and adds a new, second sentence to §6-1 using the language of M.G.L. c44B, Section 5(b)(2).

M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C is the enabling statute for municipal affordable housing trust funds. It is the statute by which the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund was created. The phrase to be added to the first sentence of §6-1 incorporates the full language of Chapter 44, Section 55C subsection (a), second sentence, which reads:

"The purpose of the trust is to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in municipalities for the benefit of low and moderate income households and

for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of chapter 44B."

The proposed new, second sentence of §6-1 is taken directly from the Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. c Chapter 44B, Section 5(b)(2), which gives the Community Preservation Committee the authority to make recommendations to Town Meeting: "for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing".

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-2.B OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-2.B of the Code of the Town of Williamstown by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line, and by adding the language in bold italics or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-2 Composition and tenure of Trustees.

B. Composition. One of the Trustees shall be a member of the Board of Selectmen, one a member of the Williamstown Affordable Housing Committee, and three **four** to five **six** residents who would bring to the Trust relevant experience and expertise, such as in real estate, housing, banking, fundraising, or the like. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Board of Selectmen from appointing the Town Manager as an ex-officio additional member, without the power to vote.

The members of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund board currently are also appointed members of the Affordable Housing Committee, making reference to the Affordable Housing Committee a redundancy. Prior to their appointment to the Affordable Housing Committee, that committee had been dormant for several years.

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-3.A OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-3.A of the Code of the Town of Williamstown by adding the bold, italics language below (new subsections 13 and 14) or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-3 Powers of trust.

- A. Powers. The powers of the Board, all of which shall be carried on in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this act, shall include the following powers, subject to the limitations set forth in § 6-3B:
- (1) To solicit and accept grants, gifts, devices, and bequests, or otherwise acquire real or personal property.
- (2) To invest any of the Trust property in such manner as they may deem advisable without being limited as to the kind or amount of any investment.
- (3) To sell and exchange any real personal property or any interest therein for such consideration and upon such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.
- (4) To join with others in the acquisition of real property or any interest therein.
- (5) To borrow money and mortgage or pledge any part of the Trust estate assets and issue notes or other indebtedness.
- (6) To join with others in borrowings, mortgages and pledges, and to guarantee and become surety on obligations of others in transactions in which the Trust has an interest.
- (7) To execute, as lessor or lessee, leases, including for terms expiring after the possible expiration of the Trust.
- (8) To restore, construct, repair and maintain buildings and to make other improvements and establish such reserves as they deem necessary therefor.
- (9) To pay, compromise or adjust all obligations incurred and rights acquired in the administration of the Trust.
- (10) To obtain advice of counsel and to rely thereon.
- (11) To employ such other persons, agents, staff, brokers, managers, accountants, or advisors as they may deem advisable and to pay reasonable compensation and expenses, apportioning same between income and principal as the Board deems advisable; and
- (12) To execute, acknowledge, and deliver all such contracts, deeds, mortgages, leases, discharges, and partial releases of mortgages or other instruments as they may deem advisable in the course of the administration of the Trust.

- (13) To engage in all Community Preservation Act (M.G.L. Chapter 44B)-eligible activities.
- (14) To execute a grant agreement that includes all Community Preservation Act (M.G.L. Chapter 44B)-eligible activities.

Proposed subsection (13) is to match the proposed amendments to Section 6-1. Proposed subsection (14) is recommended by the Massachusetts Housing Partnership's Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Operations Manual (11/15).

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1..

PLANNING BOARD- CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-1.2 Purposes by adding the following underlined language.

The purposes of this chapter are to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown; to promote a diverse and affordable mix of housing types; to protect and conserve the value of property within the Town; to preserve and increase the beauty and amenities of the Town; to conserve, insofar as possible, natural conditions and to secure safety from fire, congestion or confusion, by encouraging the most appropriate uses of land within the Town in accord with the objectives expressed in Section 2A of Chapter 808 of the Acts of 1975 and the provisions of Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Zoning is the primary tool that regulates land use which, in turn, can influence housing diversity and affordability. Since housing is a critical land use issue it seems important to be explicit about that in the purpose section of the zoning bylaws.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

PLANNING BOARD - REMOVING BARRIERS TO DUPLEXES

Article 39. Amend §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses by removing footnote 2 (which requires a Zoning Board finding for new construction) from the by-right approval for Two Family Dwellings in RR2.

Amend §70-4.2.E.(1) by deleting "(1) New (not converted) two-family dwellings must have lot area equaling 50% more than that required at that location for a single-family dwelling", and then renumbering the remaining section.

The first section of this proposal would remove a footnote that modifies the by-right nature of duplexes in the RR zone by calling for the ZBA to make an extraordinary finding of "no health, safety, or congestion problems" – a finding that is not required of the same type of dwelling in the General Residence Zone.

The second section of this proposal eliminates a requirement that new two-unit homes in all zones must have 150% of the required lot area of single unit homes. Since accessory dwelling units (detached or internal to existing home) do not require larger lots, this article will clarify and improve consistency of existing regulations.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

PLANNING BOARD-REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES IN GENERAL RESIDENCE

Article 40. Amend §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by inserting the bold and underlined use and permissions;

•	RR 1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	VB	РВ	LI
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
RESIDENTIAL USES Single-family dwelling	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Two-family dwelling	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Three- & four-family dwelling	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	No	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Detached accessory dwellings [See § 70-7.1D]	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

Amend §70-9.2 by adding the following;

DWELLING, THREE-FAMILY

A detached structure containing three dwelling units.

DWELLING, FOUR-FAMILY

A detached structure containing four dwelling units.

This proposal will allow Three and Four Unit Buildings in our General Residence Zone by right. These buildings are neighborhood scale and already exist in our community in multiple neighborhoods including South Street, Cole Ave, Southworth St, and Hoxsey St. These were built pre war before zoning came into effect and have been an accepted part of the fabric of Williamstown for years. This change will allow these "missing middle" housing types to be constructed again. They are at present allowed as "other multi family" and permissible only via special permit.

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

PLANNING BOARD-REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES IN RURAL RESIDENCE

Article 41. Amend §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by Changing from No to Yes² the permission category for "Three and Four Family Dwellings" in the Rural Residence 2 & 3 Zoning Districts.

The change will also permit the types of housing units discussed in Article 37, three and four unit buildings, in the Rural Residence 2 & 3 Zones with a "finding" from the ZBA required of "no health, safety, or congestion problems".

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 - 2.

PLANNING BOARD - DWELLING UNITS ABOVE NONCONFORMING BUSINESSES

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend <u>§70-3.3.A.1</u> Residential Uses by changing the approval for "Dwelling units located above the first story of a nonresidential use" from NO to BA in the GR & RR2 / RR3 district columns.

This article will allow apartments to be built on upper floors of business uses in our residential zones. A prominent example of a business in a residential zone would be the Store at Five Corners.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

PLANNING BOARD - REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI UNIT HOMES

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-7.1.G by increasing the allowable number of units to 24 from 16.

Amend <u>§70-7.1.G</u> by deleting sections §70-7.1.G.1(a), 1(b), & 1(f), and renumbering the remaining sections as necessary.

Amend <u>§70-7.1.G</u>.2(a) by reducing the distance a parking space is required to be from a building to 20 feet from 30 feet.

Amend <u>§70-7.1.G.</u>2(c) by reducing the distance required between buildings within a development from 40 feet to 30 feet.

Amend <u>§70-7.1.G</u>.3(a) by reducing the required amount of open space per unit to 1,000 SF from 1,500 SF and deleting the following language; (1,000 square feet for elderly developments under § 70-7.1E)

Amend <u>§70-7.1.G</u>.4 by deleting (c) floor area requirements.

This proposed amendment will remove special lot size and other dimensional requirements from multi family developments of up to 24 units in the General Residence Zone. At present a building of 5 units requires over an acre of land. This will be reduced to the current zone-specific minimum lot size but remain controlled by the number of parking spaces and the amount of required open space per unit in the development. All of these developments will remain only permissible through a Special Permit granted by Williamstown's Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

PLANNING BOARD- REDUCTION OF LOT DIMENSIONS, GENERAL RESIDENCE

Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend § 70-4.3 Dimensional Schedule by replacing the struck through language with the underlined.

§70-4.3 DIMENSIONAL SCHEDULE

				(TEET)			
District	Min. Lot Area	Min. Lot Frontag e (feet) [1]		Side	Rear	Max % Bldg Cov.	Min % Open Sp.
General Residence	10,000 SF 6600 SF	100 <u>66</u>	30 <u>20</u>	15 <u>10</u>	15 10	20	ı

This proposed amendment reduces the lot sizes, frontages, and yard requirements, in the General Residence District by approximately one third. Many of our existing neighborhoods including Lower Cole Avenue, Haley Village, Colonial Avenue & Berkshire Drive, and portions of the White Oaks could not be built under today's rules requiring 100 feet of frontage and 10,000 sf of lot area. This proposal will allow these neighborhoods to evolve as they once did prior to zoning and will allow additional housing opportunities within other areas in an incremental manner that will not be out of character from our existing built environment

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

PLANNING BOARD- REDUCTION OF LOT DIMENSIONS, RURAL RESIDENCE 2

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend § 70-4.3 Dimensional Schedule by replacing the struck through language with the underlined.

§70-4.3 DIMENSIONAL SCHEDULE

				IUM YA FEET)			
District	Min. Lot Area	Min. Lot Fronta ge (feet) [1]	Front ²	Side	Rear	Max % Bldg Cov.	Min % Open Sp.
Rural Residence 2	2-1/2 Acres ³ 1-2/3	150 100	50 33	25 - <u>16</u>	25 16	-	50

This proposed amendment reduces the lot sizes, frontages, and yard requirements, in the Rural Residence 2 District by approximately one third, thereby opening up more rural land to residential housing development.

The Planning Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Select Board may make a recommendation on this article at the Town Meeting.

PLANNING BOARD- UTILITY EXTENSION

Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-8.4 (D)(1)(a) by rewriting the existing language as follows by deleting the struck through and replacing with the underlined.

Providing adequate water, sewerage and drainage for this location should pose no unusual public problems, and preferably would not result in taking into the Board's consideration any utility extension past undeveloped parcels.

This proposed amendment would allow the Zoning Board of Appeals to take under consideration the effects of extending utilities but would remove the suggestion that they look unfavorably on any such application to extend municipal water or sewer service.

The Planning Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Select Board may make a recommendation on this article at the Town Meeting.

PLANNING BOARD- ASSISTED LIVING

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend § 70-3.3A (1) "Principal uses" (Residential uses) to change from No to BA in all zoning districts to allow conversion of hotels and nursing homes into Assisted living residences.

	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	VB	РВ	LI
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
Assisted living residence								
New construction or conversion of existing building (See § 70-7.1F.)	No	ВА	ВА	No	ВА	No	No	No
Conversion of existing hotel, motel or nursing home (See § 70-7.1F.)	No BA	No BA	No BA		No BA			No BA

This proposed amendment allows a developer to convert a former hotel or motel to an assisted living facility. This is currently not allowed. Williamstown has several under-utilized hospitality properties on the market today and a regional shortage of elderly housing options with on site services. An example of a motel converted to assisted living can be seen in nearby Lanesborough on Route 7 across from the Town Hall & Mobil Gasoline Station.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends that Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board may make a recommendation on this article at the Town Meeting.

CITIZENS PETITION - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT

Article 48.

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery;

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike around town¹; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts has hundreds of structurally deficient bridges as well as overdue road repair and replacement projects; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, tuitions and fees at our public colleges and universities are among the highest in the country, forcing many students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable again, and expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling; and

WHEREAS, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Town of Williamstown supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to

quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

CITIZENS PETITION - "PUBLIC OFFICIAL STIPENDS"

Article 49.

Where as:

serving on Town Boards and Committees may create additional expenses such as childcare and meal preparation; and

residents with higher household income can better afford such additional expenses; and

diversity among public officials makes government stronger; and

fewer barriers may increase the likelihood of residents from all income levels willing to serve on Town Boards and Committees; and

the current General Services Administration per diem travel meal and incidental expenses for Berkshire County is \$64; and

40 percent of \$64 is \$25.60

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Town of Williamstown pay a stipend in the amount of forty percent of the General Services Administration per diem travel meal and incidental expenses for Berkshire County for each open meeting attended, unless a written request declining the stipend is received, to all members of Williamstown Boards and Committees.

The Select Board vote to recommend the adoption of this article failed by a vote of 1 in favor and 4 against.

Williamstown Select Board

Date: April 11, 2022

Andrew Hogeland, chair Hugh Daley, vice chair Wade Hasty Jane Patton
Jeffrey Johnson

Approved by roll call vote at noticed Hybrid meeting of Select Board, April 11, 2022.

Berkshire, ss:

April 14, 2022

I hereby certify that I have posted attested copies of the above Warrant in four public places in the Town of Williamstown, and the Post Office at least seven days before said Annual Town Election & Annual Town Meeting.

Constable

Date

